

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03283 141305Z

51

ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 LAB-04 EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3370

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

US MISSION GENEVA 609

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 3283

DEPT PASS TO LABOR DEPT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB OCON XB

SUBJECT: LABOR ATTACHE CONFERENCE

1. REGIONAL LABATT RECOMMENDS INCLUSION IN AGENDA OF
UPCOMING NEW DELHI LABOR ATTACHE CONFERENCE OF ITEM ON
CURRENT OUTLOOK FOR INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PETROLEUM
ANC CHEMICAL WORKERS (IFPCW). HE UNDERSTANDS THAT, AS
A RESULT OF OSTENSIBLE RECENT MANEUVERS TO SHIFT US LABOR
SUPPORT TO THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF CHEMICAL AND
GENERAL WORKERS UNIONS (ICF), WHICH REPORTEDLY CAUSED
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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 03283 141305Z

AT LEAST ONE MAJOR AMERICAN UNION MEMBER OF IFPCW TO

DISAFFILIATE, IFPCW APPARENTLY FACES UNCERTAIN PROSPECTS FOR SURVIVAL.

2. SINCE IFPCW IS ONLY FREE WORLD INTERNATIONAL TRADE SECRETARIAT (ITS) BASED IN US, ITS DEMISE WOULD LIKELY BE REGARDED ABROAD AS SIGN OF AMERICAN LABOR INCLINATION TO DISENGAGE FROM INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES. MOREOVER, SINCE IFPCW HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY ACTIVE IN ASIA (ASIANS COMPRISE ONE-THIRD OF ITS EXECUTIVE BOARD), ITS DISSOLUTION COULD HAVE ESPECIALLY HARMFUL EFFECT ON FABRIC OF ASIAN-AMERICAN LABOR TIES. IT IS ALSO LIKELY THAT ASIAN AFFILIATES OF IFPCW WOULD THINK TWICE BEFORE JOINING ICF, WHICH PROJECTS EUROPEAN ORIENTATION IN VIEW OF ITS PAST RECORD AND GENEVA HQS LOCATION. INDEED, ASIANS COULD WELL OPT TO FOREGO ANY ITS AFFILIATION OR TO SWITCH TO RIVAL COMMUNIST TRADES UNION INTERNATIONAL (TUI). IN CONTRAST TO APPARENT CURRENT DISARRAY AMONG FREE WORLD PETROLEUM AND CHEMICAL WORKERS, COMMUNISTS, RECOGNIZING SINGULAR IMPORTANCE OF THIS SECTOR, APPEAR TO BE MAKING STRONG EFFORT TO INVITE MAXIMUM POSSIBLE NUMBER OF THIRD WORLD UNIONS AS OBSERVERS TO FORTHCOMING CONGRESS OF CHEMICAL, OIL AND ALLIED WORKERS TUI TO BE HELD IN POLAND.

3. LABATT ACCORDINGLY BELIEVES (A) EXPOSITION BY INFORMED WASHINGTON OFFICIALS OF CURRENT IFPCW SITUATION AND (B) GENERAL DISCUSSION OF IMPLICATIONS IN ASIA WOULD BE MOST USEFUL TO CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS.
GODLEY

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